Reply of Government.—Will be done in course of time when our colleges are properly and fully equipped.

SUBJECT No. 273.

Religious instruction in schools.

Mr. C. Sreenivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—No religious instruction should be given in Government schools. Such education may be left in the hands of parents. The good work done in the way of tolerance among the various religious sects and communities during the last 80 years is being marred. The intention with which the Government has introduced this instruction will never be attained.

Mr. K. H. Ramiah.—Religious instruction in schools is necessary. Not only should teachers do this work in the ordinary course, but men of character and integrity may be selected to go and give lectures in colleges and schools. For instance, men from the Ramakrishna Mission, the Theosophical Society, the Vokkaligar Sangha, etc., would be most suitable persons for engaging in this connection. This would undoubtedly result in great good.

Mr. H. Krishnasastri.—Religious instruction is necessary but it should not be sectarian in character.

Mr. V. Raghavachar.—Instruction in schools is not necessary. The boys may be allowed to have their own private lessons, an examination alone being conducted in the schools.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishniah.—A special report may be obtained as regards the progress of the scheme so far. It has not been a success. The boys do not attend these classes, and those that do are not benefited to any extent. The whole thing is become a farce, and this compulsory religious instruction should therefore be done away with.

Mr. Amble Anniah Pandit.—Mr. K. H. Ramiah's suggestion is good so far as it relates to public gentlemen giving weekly lectures, etc., in colleges and schools.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao.—The scheme is itself not sound, and it is, besides, bound to be a failure in the absence of capable teachers competent to do this difficult work.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 274.

Conscience clause.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Provision may be made for 'conscience clause' in the Grant-in-aid Code for all aided schools and colleges in the State, so that all pupils attending such schools may have the benefit of such provision as is allowed in all aided schools and colleges of British India for European and Eurasian pupils.